It is expected that the slowdown in current year's growth would be arrested and the growth would pick up as a result of the various measures announced.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के हानि में चल रहे उपक्रमों को बंद किया जाना

36. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 22 जून, 1998 के 'द आब्जर्वर' में प्रकाशित "पीएसयू इन रेड टू बी क्लोज़ड डाउन" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने घाटे में चल रही ऐसी औद्योगिक संस्थाओं की पहचान की है जिन्हें बंद किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो ऐसे एककों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(घ) इन एककों में मार्च, 1998 तक कुल कितनी पूंजी का निवेश किया गया था और कितने श्रमिकों को काम पर लगाया गया था?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारी उद्योग विभाग की नौ इकाइयां जिनमें बीआईएफआर/विनिवेश आयोग, किसी एक स्तर या अन्य स्तर पर इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा है कि ये इकाइयां अजैव्य हैं और प्राथमिक/अंतिम स्तर पर उन्हें बंद करने के बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं। बी॰ आई॰ एफ आर॰ एक अर्धन्यायिक निकाय है।

(ग) और (घ) 31.03.98 की स्थिति के अनुसार ऐसी इकाइयों के नाम, पूंजी निवेश और कर्मचारियों की संख्या को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है।

Progress of Joint Ventures with PSUs

37. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the review of progress of joint venture formation of eleven public sector undertakings with consultants who have given an action plan for the future;

(b) if so, what are the details of the action plan; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) Out of the 48 PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry, 23 units have been identified for joint ventures. Consultants/Merchant Bankers who have been appointed in most cases to locate joint venture partners have also broadly indicated the steps involved in the exercise. Progress is reviewed at various levels and meetings are held with the consultants from time to time with a view to expediting the process.

Welfare schemes for workers in coir industry

38. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Industries and Social Welfare, Government of Kerala has written a letter to him requesting for sanction of a special grant for the successful and satisfactory implementation of various welfare schemes for the benefit of the lakhs of poor workers employed in coir industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In her letter, the Minister of Industries & Social Welfare, Government of Kerala, has requested for a central Government grant of Rs. 5 crores for successful and satisfactory implementation of welfare schemes by the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board (KCWWFB) for the benefit of poor workers employed in the Coir Industry in Kerala. The welfare schemes being implemented by the KCWWFB include payment of old age pension at the enhanced rate of Rs. 100/-, setting up of old age homes and running of a computer centre for training of the children of the Coir workers.

During 1997-98 no grant could be sanctioned by the Government for the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board (KCWWFB) because several irregularities had been found in the evaluation conducted by the Coir Board on the performance of the KCWWFB. These irregularities have been

brought to the notice by the Coir Board to all concerned. Unless Government of India is satisfied that necessary corrective steps have been taken, it is not possible to release any grants for the KCWWFB.

Supply of outdated and obsolete technology

39. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain that foreign companies have provided outdated and obsolete technology to India;

(b) whether any think tank organisation or monitoring agency is working to check it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that the practice of making India a dumping ground of out-dated technologies is very old; and

(e) if so, whether any of the Governments have discovered and acted on it?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (e) No specific survey has been conducted by the Government in the Ministry of Industry to ascertain whether foreign companies have provided outdated and obsolete technology to India.

In the liberalised technology import regime, market competitiveness of a product is the crucial determinant. Hence, technologies being provided to Indian Companies are dependent on the commercial acceptance of such technology in a competitive environment.

Shifting of the Office of Salt Commissioner

40. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for shifting of Salt Commissioner's office from Calcutta to Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when it is likely to be shifted to Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) There had been a persistent demand from the Salt Manufacturers' Associations of Gujarat as well as the State Government of Gujarat for shifting the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to a suitable location in Gujarat on the ground that Gujarat contributes about 70% of the total salt production in the country. After careful consideration of the matter, orders were issued by the Government in 1994 to shift the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to Gandhinagar (Gujarat). However, the All India Salt Department Employees' Union filed a Writ Petition in the Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur against the orders of the Government. While admitting the Writ Petition, the High Court stayed the operation of Government's orders. The matter is still pending before the High Court and is, therefore, sub-judice.

Conversion of SSIs into private limited companies

41. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert small scale industries into private limited companies in order to lend them transparency in their operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the increasing sickness in SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal as entrepreneurs are free to establish a business organization most appropriate to their need viz. Proprietership, firm or company.

(c) Following measures have been taken to check sickness in SSIs:

1. Modified definition of sick SSI Units.
2. Reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation.
3. Prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres, Head Office to deal with the sick industrial units, provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects.